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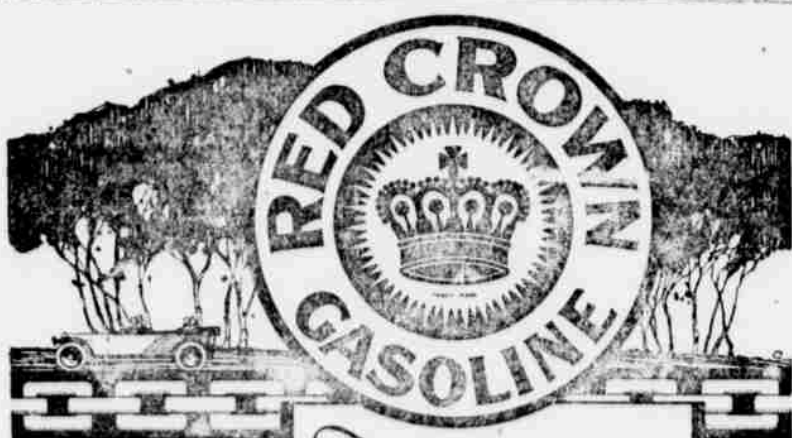
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Subscription Rates: Per Year, \$2.50
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READ THE GARDEN ISLAND

POISON PLANTS

The Hawaiian Forester, March and April numbers, contains a descriptive inventory of the poisonous plants of Hawaii—the substance of which may be of interest to our readers.

The indigenous poisons are very few in number, and are so uncommon that they are never likely to hurt anyone. They are the two following:

The Akia. A small straggling bush on the lowlands mostly, with small, bright-colored berries, about the size of a pea, elongated, in bunches. This is the classic poison of Hawaiian black arts, with which the kahuna anaana eked out his prayers in case of a tough and stubborn subject. It grows back of Niumalu on the kula, and in other similar places. This is about the only case where the bright berry might appeal to the eye—and they have been mistaken for ohelos.

Auhuhu. Fish Poison. A small leguminous plant with white flowers, not unlike indigo. It was used by the Hawaiians for stupefying fish. It is not likely to trouble the ordinary person.

Kikania. Solanum, with bright scarlet fruit, like a tomato. The plant is spiny. Fruit used for leis by Hawaiians.

The Popolo. A common weed in fields. If poisonous at all, it must be very mildly so,—as in by-gone times it was used for preserves, pies etc. Little black berries about the size of a small pea. It is the forbear of Burbank's wonder berry, which ought to redeem its reputation.

Stramonium. Common in newly plowed fields. Like many other members of the solanum family, this carries the active principals of belladonna. The so called florabunda, datura florabunda—with large drooping, salver shaped white flowers is now no longer common. Because of its bad character it has fallen into disfavor, and been cast out in spite of its showy appearance.

Castor Oil. In spite of its salutary cathartic qualities this common plant is under the bann. It is the seeds that are dangerous. A soldier died recently in Honolulu after having eaten six seeds of this plant. One wonders why he ever ate six seeds—one ought to have satisfied him if he had any sense.

Poinsettia. This is a euphorbia, and all the euphorbias are more or less poisonous, having a milky juice which contains the poison principle. A child is said to have died on Kauai, due to sucking freshly cut stems of the poinsettia. That sounds like a pretty unlikely yarn,—but if it is so,—don't do it!

A number of other euphorbias are more or less common garden and field weeds. They have acrid milky juice,—because of them, as you naturally will, unless like Nebuchadnezzar, you have "gone to grass" mentally as well as physically.

The Kukui is rated as poisonous, the nuts. They are very rich are purgative, and doubtless a meal of them would be bad for one. But in the ordinary sense they are scarcely poisonous.

The hush-and-be-still tree commonly cultivated, belongs to a poisonous family. The dog-bane—with milky juice wherein the poison principle is found.

The Oleander, the periwinkle, the allamanda, the beaumonta, etc. belong to this same family and are more or less under the bann, because of the milky juice. The oleander is particularly virulent and dangerous. It is a heart stimulant and works like digitalis.

The Star of Bethlehem. Isotoma, a small hobelia with long tubular, white scented flowers, grows abundantly in the neighborhood of Hanalei. It is another case of milky juice.

The Coral Bush. Another euphorbia with divided leaves and scarlet flowers, milky juice again. A Japanese boy, ten years old, died from eating the fruit in Honolulu recently.

It will be noticed that almost all these plants are foreign introductions and that the number of them is comparatively small, and the danger of being poisoned by them comparatively remote. As a rule they are not things that any sane person would dream of eating. For instance the stramonium weed found so commonly in the fields, with prickly capsules, and a rank smell that would fairly nauseate you,—who would ever eat enough of that to hurt him.

It is a pretty safe general rule to go slow with anything that has an acrid milky juice. But there are exceptions—breadfruit for example.

HOFGAARD'S SPECIAL SALE

June 1st to 12th

Prior to taking stock we will hold a Special Sale of the following lines:

HARDWARE

Agateware — Tinware

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Independence Day Celebration

Honolulu is looking forward to the biggest community Independence Day celebration she had enjoyed for many years. Under the auspices of the American Legion, the combined military forces on Oahu are planning to stage a spectacular three-day program beginning Saturday afternoon, July 3, and continuing until Monday evening, July 5. Monday of course will be the real holiday this year since July 4th falls on Sunday.

Three thousand cadets from Annapolis Naval Academy are to arrive at Honolulu on Saturday July 3, and the Saturday afternoon celebration at Kapiolani Park will have these wide-awake Yankees as its stellar attraction. Plans are under way for a baseball game between the "Middies" and a picked team of men from the army forces on Oahu.

The Saturday afternoon program will also include a polo game, probably between the five All-Hawaiian players and the 17th Cavalry five. It is expected that Tom Driscoll and a number of well known mainland players will participate in the polo series this summer and that they may be on hand July 3.

The Sunday program, to which no admission will be charged, will consist of a huge patriotic celebration at the grandstand in the park. It will be military in flavor but include, besides the reading of the Declaration of Independence, singing by a mixed choir of four hundred voices. The national salute of forty-eight guns will be fired at noon.

Monday's big program will begin at 9:45 a. m. It includes mounted wrestling, guidon race, dismounted tug-of-war, polo pony race, drill by Kamehameha cadets, mounted drill by 17th Cavalry and wall scaling contests.

The afternoon program will consist of Cossack race, 100-yard dash, tug-of-war, Roman race, machine gun contest and a thrilling series of bombing raids, bombing formations, attack on observation balloon, aerial acrobatics and similar stunts by men of the aerial force from Luke Field.

Not least of the day's attractions will be the hot quick luncheons dished out by army cooks from rolling field kitchens. These will be served to the public during noon on Monday at

about cost. The army chefs guarantee that no matter how many thousand people demand food, all will be served, and within a few minutes' time. They say that when forced to it, they can serve customers at the rate of thirty a minute to each wagon.

TOBACCO: A NATIONAL EXTRAVAGANCE

The Department of Agriculture has recently published the following figures in regard to the consumption of tobacco in the United States. A hundred years or so ago 30 million pounds of tobacco were used annually. It has steadily grown year by year, ever since, until it now stands at about a billion pounds. Much of this vast increase has been justified, more or less by the growth of the population, but not all by any means. A hundred years ago the per capita consumption was three pounds a year. Presumably in those days of dutiful women and obedient children, they didn't get away with very much of their three pounds apiece, so that the head of the household had really some fifteen or sixteen pounds to his credit.

Immediately after the civil war, strange to say, there was a phenomenal shrinkage of tobacco consumption, so that the per capita rate fell to two pounds. Money was scarce for such luxuries. But with the recovery of prosperity the cloud of smoke grew steadily denser, until by 1914 the per capita allowance had grown to 6.4 pounds or 32 pounds for the head of the family, who did the smoking—or chewing,—for his wife and children.

Today the smoker has eight pounds in his own right and forty in the right of his family.

This much however may be said in extenuation of the 40 pounds to the man—perhaps he doesn't get quite all of it. His wife occasionally takes a share at least of her quota, and the boys may also come in on theirs; but even so, he uses two or three times as much as his father did back in say 1870.

THE PRESENT SUGAR CROP

The Hawaiian Sugar crop for 1920 according to latest careful estimates will be 575 tons, which is about 5000 tons more than the original estimate of last November.

On a basis of 20c a pound the crop will be worth 227 million dollars and more.

LIGHTER THAN CORK

Cork, as every one knows,—is the bark of the cork oak, which grows largely in Spain. From time immemorial it has been the lightest woody substance known. But now a much lighter real wood has been found in South America, known as Balsa wood.

Cork weighs nearly 14 pounds to the cubic foot, while Balsa goes only to seven. Combined with this extreme lightness it has a very considerable tensile or resistance strength, which renders it valuable for aeroplane construction. It is about half the strength of spruce, the standard aeroplane wood, but weighs only quarter as much. By reinforcing it with a fibre veneer it can be made as strong as spruce and four times as light.

Balsa also has the great value of being a non-conductor of heat,—it is a sort of spongy wood, with air cells innumerable scattered all through which check the spread of heat. This will make it very valuable for all heat insulation and refrigeration purposes from houses in winter to refrigerators in summer. This suggests a wide range of usefulness and value.

The tree looks like the North American cotton wood and the wood resembles clear white pine. It grows very rapidly, making the astonishing growth of 36 ft in height in a single year, and producing a log thirty inches in diameter in six years.

It is being grown as a commercial enterprise by the United Fruit Co. in Central America. Doubtless it would do well in these Islands; we would recommend the Board of Agriculture to look into it.

THE LONGEST BRIDGES

The longest span bridge in the world is the transcontinental bridge at Quebec 1800 ft.

The next in length is the famous Forth Bridge in Scotland, 1700 ft.

Then follow no less than four long span bridges at New York,—respectively 1600 ft., 1595 ft., 1470 ft., and 1182 ft.

All the other long bridges running down to 600 ft. are in America. Then there are two or three in Germany of about 600 ft.—then back to America again.